



COUNTY BOROUGH OF GREAT YARMOUTH

REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

1968

The Report of the Port Medical Officer

PORT OF GREAT YARMOUTH

INTRODUCTION.

1968 was the first complete year in which the Port was approved for the issue of deratting exemption certificates and 47 of these were issued to Masters of vessels using the Port. The amount of time devoted to the routine inspection of vessels had thus to be reduced, due mainly to the inspectorate being below establishment for the whole year. The increase in the number of vessels using the port was maintained and details appear below :—

Year	Total No. of Arrivals	Total Net Registered Tonnage
1951	1,272	213,526
1965	2,813	732,174
1966	3,806	896,940
1967	4,973	1,254,260
1968	6,019	1,299,533

Much of this increase in the activity of the port is associated with the drilling in the North Sea, and an analysis of the types of vessel using the port is given in Table B.

The amount of food imports also increased during the year and inspection of this is dealt with in the section on Food Inspection

This report is compiled in accordance with the provisions of the Ministry Circular 33/52. As there has been no change in the matters listed under Sections V, VI, VIII, XIV, XV and XVI, the information relating to these subjects has not been repeated.

Section I — STAFF

TABLE A.

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
R. G. NEWBERRY	Port Medical Officer	1.7.68	M.B., B.S. D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
W. STEWART	Deputy Port Medical Officer	21.10.68	M.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
F. T. PORTER	Port Health Inspector	3.3.64	Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods	Chief Public Health Inspector, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.
R. S. R. COLEMAN	Deputy Port Health Inspector	10.6.64	Cert. S.I.E.J.B. and Inspector of Meat and Other Foods	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, County Borough of Great Yarmouth.

Section II — AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR

The following table shows the amount of shipping and tonnage arriving at the port between 1st January and 31st December 1968.

TABLE B.

Nos. of Foreign and Coastwise Shipping		Net Registered Tonnage	Number inspected By the M.C.H. By the Inspectors		No. of Ships re- ported as having infectious disease on board
Laden	1,976	605,139			
Ballast	245	71,169			
Repairs & Refuge	52	15,124			
North Sea Gas Supply Ships	3,746	608,101			
Total	6,019	1,299,533	4	131	Nil

Section III — CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

No vessels used the port during the year for the purpose of passenger traffic but some conventional cargo boats and three “roll on roll off” container cargo boats carried some passengers. Most of the passengers on these latter vessels consisted of the lorry drivers and their companions in charge of the containerised cargo passing through the port. Most of the passenger traffic was between Great Yarmouth, Rotterdam and Scheveningen. The details are as follows :—

Number of passengers INWARDS—6,027

It is not possible to give an accurate figure for outward bound passengers. All trucking crews of European origin return to the Continent, although not necessarily through this port. Drilling crews similarly, may arrive by sea and return by helicopter.

CARGO TRAFFIC.

Cargo traffic continued to flourish during the year with the introduction of three “roll on roll off” vessels for containerised cargoes. The continued activity in the exploration for North Sea gas has maintained Great Yarmouth as one of the major ports for the numerous supply vessels taking part in this activity.

The following table shows details of the quantities and nature of cargo handled during the year as recorded by the Port and Haven Commissioners :—

	Imports	Exports
Cattle, Ponies, etc	—	12,934 head
Coal	34,467 tons	—
Chemicals	13,020 „	4,886 tons
Fruit and Vegetables	30,347 „	—
Groceries	34,790 „	14,085 „
Grain and Seeds	36,377 „	—
Fertilizers	24,502 „	—
Clay	1,594 „	—
Metals, Scrap Iron, etc.	—	68,609 „
Paper, Strawboards and Woodpulp	12,926 „	1,547 „
Petrol, Paraffin, Fuel Oil, etc	497,954 „	—
Salt	1,237 „	6,362 „
Sugar	—	2,551 „
Timber	44,316 „	—
Caravans	—	778
Glass	—	7,220 „
Machinery	—	754 „
Others	8,480 „	2,315 „

North Sea Exploration Supply

	Inwards	Outwards
Chemicals	3,123 tons	31,660 tons
Cement	235 „	18,311 „
Drilling Equipment	14,564 „	28,225 „
Steel Piping	27,145 „	101,813 „

PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE.

Belgium—Antwerp.

Denmark—Fredricksund, Copenhagen.

East Germany—Hamburg, Bremen.

Finland—Kotka, Abo, Kemi.

Holland—Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Scheveningen, Maisluys.

Norway—Christiansund, Oslo, Trondheim.

Sweden—Kalmar, Gothenburg, Larvik.

Poland—Stettin.

Section IV — INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There was no inland barge traffic during the year.

Section V — WATER SUPPLY

No change.

Section VI — PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1952 - 1966

No change.

Section VII — SMALLPOX

(1) Under arrangements made by the Regional Hospital Board, smallpox cases would be admitted to Ipswich Smallpox Hospital.

(2) It has been agreed that the Ipswich Ambulance Service will undertake responsibility for all arrangements for transport of smallpox cases to hospital. Applications for transport should be sent to the Resident Medical Officer, St. Helen's Hospital, Ipswich (Telephone number Ipswich 77211). The Ipswich Authority is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

(3) Smallpox consultants available :—

Dr. W. A. Oliver, Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

(4) Specimens for laboratory examination will be sent to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, The Hyde, London, N.W.9.

Section VIII — VENEREAL DISEASE

No change.

Section IX — CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN SHIPS

TABLE D. — Nil.

No notifiable disease occurred on ships arriving at the port during the year, but two ships arrived from foreign infected ports. On each occasion the ships were boarded by the Port Medical Officer who checked the vaccinal state of the crews. On one vessel this was found to be satisfactory, and H.M. Customs Officers were advised to grant free pratique. On the other vessel the vaccinal state was found to be satisfactory with the exception of one member of the crew whose International Certificate had expired. He was revaccinated and issued with a new certificate. Another vessel put into the port with a crew member who was stated to be in a feverish condition and the vessel

was boarded by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector. The man was not suffering from a quarantinable disease and evidence of vaccination was satisfactory, free pratique was granted.

Section X — OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

No cases of malaria occurred in ships entering the port.

Section XI — MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No ships infected with or suspected for plague arrived at the port.

Section XII — MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

The majority of foreign vessels using the Port come from neighbouring European countries and the general standard of hygiene has been found to be satisfactory in most cases during recent years. Certain older vessels from countries further afield enter the Port in fewer numbers but these ships had a lower general standard of hygiene warranting greater attention.

(1) Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

During normal routine inspection of vessels by Port Health Inspectors, the existence and date of the International Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates are checked for validity. In those cases where the period of validity of the certificate had expired, the Master of the vessel was informed of the fact and a detailed inspection of all sections of the ship was then carried out for evidence of rodents and for conditions constituting harbourage to rodents. Where satisfactory conditions were found a new deratting exemption certificate was issued by the department in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1966.

(2) Arrangements for the bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents.

Rodents for this type of examination would be submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Norwich but there was no evidence during the year indicating the need for such examinations.

(3) Arrangements in the district for deratting ships.

Great Yarmouth is not designated as an Approved Port for the deratting of ships. Where evidence of rats was found on a vessel,

temporary emergency treatment could be carried out by the department but the Master of the vessel would be directed to the nearest "Approved Port" for the necessary treatment.

(4) Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Vessels using the port in connection with the North Sea Oil Industry are vessels which, in most cases, have been constructed during the last few years, embodying the latest methods of hygienic construction, and incorporating a high degree of rat-proofing. In cases where the need of rat-proofing has been discovered the Master or owners of the ship are requested to effect the necessary remedies.

TABLE E.

No rodents were destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports. 207 Brown Rats were destroyed in docks, quays, wharfs and warehouses situated in the port area.

TABLE F.

47 Deratting Exemption Certificates were issued to Masters of vessels during the year, most of these being at the request of the Master or Agents. As the port is not designated for deratting no Deratting Certificates were issued.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS (APPLICATION TO SHIPPING) ORDER. 1951.

Since the Port was approved for the issue of deratting exemption certificates, the need to issue rodent control certificates under the above mentioned order appears to have been unnecessary, as Masters of vessels using this Port have always expressed preference for the former international certificate. In the circumstances, no rodent control certificates were issued by the department during the year.

Section XIII — INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices :—

Nature and number of inspections		Notices served		Result of serving notices
		Statutory notices	Other notices	
British ships	39	—	4	2 complied with
Foreign ships	92	—	4	4 complied with
British fishing vessels	—	—	—	—
Total	131	—	8	6 complied with

Section XIV — PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 AND 1948.

No change.

Section XV — MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

No change.

Section XVI — MISCELLANEOUS

No change.

FOOD INSPECTION

PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937-1968

The Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1968 came into force on the 1st August and re-enacted the previous regulations on the subject incorporating certain amendments such as increased powers of detention and adding new provisions relating to “containerised” cargoes. The introduction of this last mentioned provision proved timely, as during the year two firms started to operate three large vessels from the port, built for the purpose of carrying containerised cargo on a daily service between Great Yarmouth and the Continent. Owing to the large volume of cargoes involved H.M. Customs found it necessary to install a customs inspection service at the warehouses of the two firms concerned and the resulting liaison which was possible by subsequent arrangement with that department enabled a more effective imported food inspection service to be operated by the staff of the Public Health Department. A number of containers of refrigerated meat were inspected and the validity of the “Official Certificate” was checked against the code numbers published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. A further number of containers of refrigerated meat were not examined, but the details of the consignment were passed to the Public Health Authority of the receiving area in accordance with the procedure laid down by the regulations.

Other foods which continued to arrive daily in the port during the year included canned meats, ham, fruit and lard, cheese, margarine, fresh lettuces, cabbages, tomatoes, cucumbers and onions. A new development was the importation of fresh fish packed in boxes of ice from Holland, mainly for the London market. Inspection and sampling of these imported foods showed them to be of satisfactory quality except in isolated cases such as canned meats which appeared to have been the subject of faulty heat treatment in the foreign factories concerned. In these cases the foodstuffs were surrendered to the department and stained before disposal by burial in the Council’s refuse tip.

Number of inspections of consignments of imported foods : 157.

The following table shows details of samples of imported foods submitted to the Public Analyst for routine analysis :—

Commodity	No. submitted	Results
Dutch Lettuce	3	Genuine but one sample 10 p.p. Gammexane
Pork Luncheon Meat	1	Genuine
Sausages in Brine	1	Genuine
Dutch Cucumbers	5	Genuine (free from pesticide residue)
Chicken Breast in Jelly	1	Genuine
Sauerkraut	1	Genuine
Solid Pack Apples	1	Unsatisfactory
Dutch Tomatoes	3	Genuine (free from pesticide residue)
South African Oranges	3	Genuine
Dutch Cabbage	1	Genuine
Dutch Onions	1	Genuine
Roumanian Tomatoes	1	Genuine

As there had been previous traces of pesticide residue in the samples of Dutch Lettuce taken from the same importer, the attention of the firm was drawn to this condition, which resulted in the matter being taken up with the Dutch producer.

The label of the can of solid pack apples was not in accordance with English law, but was altered following action by this department.

